

A Sweet Spinster.

(Copyrighted, 1895, by E. Louise Liddell.) "Dear me," chirped Miss Patience Cummings, "I can't seem to sense it, that it's so near Christmas."

"Well, I guess you would, if you had as much to do as I have," snapped her sister in law. "But some folks can al-ways take things easy."

"I don't think you need talk like that Susan," returned Patience, "I'm always willin' to help, an' I calculate to pay my

way."
"Humph," retorted Susan, with an aggressive sniff, "what do old maids know 'bou' the cares of housekeepin', I'd like to "Now, Susan," said Patience, the color

Now, Susan, said Patience, the color rising in her delicate face, "if you say so I'll go right out in the kitchen this minute an' take hold of the baking."
"Well, I should think you'd know that I'd ruther you'd keep at work on that sait of Jim's. There he is wearin' his last suit of Jim's. There he is wearin' his last pair of pants, and I expect any minute when he'll come through the knees—to say nothin' of the seat," returned Susan, in aggrieved tomes. "I never did see such a young one's he is for wearin' out clothes," she continued complacently, her voice softening, for little Jim was her one

her work. "Patience," she said to herself. "Seems

though they must know I'd need a lot, or they wouldn't give me that name." they wouldn't give me that name."

Susan in the meanthine had gone out into
the kitchen, and was stirring round in
a lively manner among the cooking utensils. "Makin' things hum." as her more
easy-going husband was wont to remark. Presently Patience became aware, from the cessation of domestic clatter, and the sound of voices in animated conversation.

that Susan had a visitor.
"Bon't see what made 'em come in the back door," she said to herself, with a feel-ing of regret, that she was missing a little innocent gossip.

But she refrained from going to see who

It was from a feeling that her sister-in-law wouldn't like it—and Susan was a little difficult" sometimes. So she continued at her work. After awhile the caller departed and Susan came into the sittingroom in a state of repressed excitement.
"Don't you think. May Barrow's been

here!" she exclaimed.
"I want to know," said Patience, in pleased surprise. "Pd like to have seen May myself. Why didn't you bring her in

Well, I calculated to," said Susan, looking a little confused, "but we got to talkin", an' all at once May said she most go, an' told me to give her love to you." "Much obliged," returned Patience, po-

"I've got news for you," ventured Susan, eyeing her doubtfully, "Who do you spose is goin' to get married?"
"I sure I dunno," replied Patience, absently She was feeling disappointed at not seeing May.
"Well, It's Sunize Willard and to be."

Well, it's Squire Willard, an' he's goin' well, it's squire winard, an he's goin to marry a widder woman from Linebrook, with two grown-up daughters. What do you think of that?" "I s'pose he's got a right to," said Pa-tience defiantly, but her fingers were

trembling and she bent her head still lower over her work. "For my part, I must say I think he's treatin' somebody else pretty mean," said Susan, "after all his comin' here so fre-

quent the last year."
Patience held her head up proudly at this insinuation. 'T'd have you understand, Susan,' said she, 'that Squire Willard's free to marry whoever he likes; it's nothin'

Well, you needn't get buffy 'bout it." muttered Susan as she went out to resum

her onslaught on the pans and kettles Poor Miss Patience! She had secretly ad-Poor Miss Patience! She had secretly ad-mired Nat Willard all her life. As a hand-some young man he had "kept company" with pretty Pattie Cummings, but when he had married his cousin, the old squire's ward. Pattie had tried to put all thought of him out of her heart. But no other of her hungerous beaux had found favor in her sight.

title, had been a widower for several years, and if this renewed attentions to his old sweetheart had caused her to build some delightful air castles who can wonder or blame her, even if she had passed her thirty-sixth birthday and was "old enough to So it is not surprising that Miss Patience

worked buttonholes and felled seams on little Jim's new suit with a heavy heart for the remainder of the day. However, she comforted terself with the philosophic reflection that "nobody ever felt so had that they didn't feel better

Christmas Day passed uneventfully. There was the usual turkey and plum pudding, and little else to remind one that it was a holiday. The members of the family were

reserving themselves for evening, when they were going to Linebrook to attend a Christmas festival held in the church, the principal feature of which was a Christmas have enjoyed going, but there wasn't

from for her in the sleight, and besides it never seemed to occur to her brother or his wife, that the "old maid" could be in-terested in any sort of amusement. So she resigned herself to a lonely even-ing at home. Now, Patience Cumming's there's no

just scating herself to shell the corn, when she started up with a smile on her face.

"Why shouldn't 1?" she exclaimed.

"Christmas don't come none too often."

Lighting a candle she went up to her little room under the caves. She put the light down on the old-fashioned mahog-gany bureau, and opening her closet door, took down her two, and only, highly prized silk gowns.

One a delicate dove color, had been her mother's weedling gown, and with slight attentions, from time to time, had served. Patience on those rare occasions when something extraordinary in the way of dress was required. The other was a steady-going black silk.

She regarded them lovingly, but critically, withat,

cally, withal.

"Twould be more sensible to put on
the black," she argued, smoothing the
ruchings in neck and sleeves. "But the
other's more dressy—an' I've a good mind
to wear it, no knowin' when I'il have another chance, I b'lieve I will."

And she resolutely replaced the black
frees on its pegs, and hastily—for the
pom was cold—arrayed herself in the
re pretentious garb of former days.

that done, she arranged her still

that done, she arranged her still dant fair hair high up on her head, put in a high-topped shell comber mother's and regarded herself the high the small looking glass.

shone! She smiled back at her own re-

flection.
"Patience Cummings," said she, "you're a very frivolous woman, but it's only for this once, you understand." And lifting her train with one hand, she took the candle in train with one hand, she took the candle in the other, and descended to the sitting room. "Oughter have some flowers, I expect." said she, recklessly breaking off two of the finest blossoms from her favorite pink rose-bush in the window.

One at her throat, the other in her hair. "Now I look something like," said she.

At that moment there came a loud knock at the door.

She started guildly, "Who under the canopy can it be?" she ejaculated. "An' what will they think of me! I daresn't show my head."

Another knock louder than before. "Spose I'll have to see who's there," and she looked around for something with which to cover up her finery. She saided Susan's water-proof hanging over At that proment there came a loud

with which to over up her linery. See spied Susan's water-proof hanging over a chair, and enveloping herself in its ample folds she spened the door a very little and looked cautiously out. "Don't be afraid, Miss Patience, it's only

me," said a hearty voice.
"Oh, how do you do, Squire Willard?
You gave me an awful scare. Won't you come in?" she exclaimed, opening the

"Well, I guess I will, seein' that's what I came over f-r," responded the visitor, reaching out a band in friendly greeting. Patience couldn't extend hers very far, on account of that old water-proof, but did the best she could under the circum-

"The folks have all gone away," she in-formed him, rather stiffly. She wasn't at all sure that she didn't wish her visitor

"Yes, I saw 'em go by," said the squire, who had been divesting himself of his oversoat, "an' I noticed you wasn't along, so I thought I'd come over. But maybe you were goin' out," he added, regarding her with an expression of perplexity on his genial face.

He recollected with some embarrassment that she hadn't asked him to take off his overcoat, or sit down, and somehow she

didn't look very cordial, standing there with that long black thing hanging around

"I wasn't thinkin' of goin' out," replied Patience, and then she laughed. "Now, what's the joke?" asked the squire. looking somewhat relieved at this sudder

change in demeanor on her part.
"I guess I don't seem over'n above polite,"
said Patience, apologetically, "but I
couldn't keep from laughin' to think of goin' out in this rig." and she threw off the cloak and stood smiling and blushing be-

float and stood siming and busing of fore the squire.

"Why, Pattie!" cried the squire, using the old familiar name unconsciously, "you look pretty as a picture."

"I guess you'll think I'm a fool," said she.
"I guess you'll think I'm a fool," said she.
"I guess not," he returned. "Seems to
me I've seen you wear that dress before."
"I didn't s'pose you'd remember," murmured she.
"Don't seem's though 'twas moren a

week since you wore it to that party over to our house," he continued in remi-

niscent tones.
"Don't it?" she returned faintly, her eyes downcast.
"Pattie," said he, regarding her tenderly, "I made a mistake a great many years ago—we won't talk 'bout that, though. But I always thought a sight of you, an' I've been thinkin' considerable 'bout old times lately—an' wonderin' if you didn't—that is, if you wouldn't give me another chance." another chance

Would she! Did she understand! It all seemed like a dream.

She raised her eyes inquiringly. The squire's face was very near her.

"I want you for my wife, Pattle," said

he, softly. "Oh, Squire Willard, do you really mean it?" she exclaimed, tremul "Mean it! Why, Pattie!" said the squire, re-proachfully.

And his arguments in the affirmative were

so very conclusive and convincing that tience felt her doubts gradually melt away, and speedily believed herself to be the happiest woman in the world.

In fact, they both sailed up into the sev-enth heaven of bliss, where they doubtless would have remained indefinitely, but for Patience's unfortunate memory ienly withdrew from her lover's encircling

arms.
"Squire Willard," said she, seriously, "I just forgot myself."
"That's all right; I hope you'll forget
yourself again." returned he. "You'd
better forget to call me 'squire, too."
"I ain't jokin'." said Patlence, with digmity; "an' I think I oughter know 'bout

widder woman you're goin'- to marry. "Widder woman!" cried the 'squire, in stonishment. "I ain't goin' to marry any vidder, anless you're one." "Don't you go regular to Linebrook to

ee a widder with twogrown-updaughters? emanded Patience.
"Yes, 'I do," answered the 'squire, his

yes twinkling; "but I dunno's I'm 'bliged o marry her, 'f I do." in marry her, 'I I do.'
"No. I 's'pose you can go around breakin'
women's hearts." returned Patience, her
voice trembling. She felt that her idol was
shattered and her short-lived happiness at
an end.

shattered and her short-lived happiness at an end.
"Now, Pattic," said the 'squire, re-pressing an exident inclination to laugh, "I shouldn't have thought you'd believed any such yarn. I s'posed you knew that I went over to Linebrook to see Sister Eilen, she lost her busband six months ago, an' she'n her giris have come there to live."
"We'l, if that don't beat all, I dun-no's fou'll ever forgive me," faltered Patience.

monin' lowed," she solidoquized, and to dispet the fortorn feeling that came over her, as she came back into the big empty sitting room, after seeing the rest of the family off.

"You're jest goin' to fetch some cider'n apples, an' pop some corn an' have a real good time."

Acting on this resolution she brought in from the pantry a dish of rosy-cheeked apples and ears of yellow corn. She was just seating herself to shell the corn, when the started up with a smile on her face.

The squire never did anything by halves, and certaining the happy penitent could not complain that he was not very thorough in this matter of granting absolution.

He made one demand, however, which was not refused, and on New Year's Day the wedding bells sang merrily for the squire and his bride.

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Patience.

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Sister in-law Susan, "if Patience ain't s

Thirty Dollars for a Moth. A specimen of that entomological rarity

known as as the Lunar May moth (ophiode lunaris), which was captured in Stratton Strawless wood in 1878, has just been sold in London for £6. This insect, which fell to the net of Dr. F. D. Wheeler, the well-known collector in the Fen district, is only the fifth taken in England. Its home is in Hungary and Dalmatia and it also occurs in the oak woods of Southern Europe, although it is exceedingly fickle in its appearance. Its pre-vious occurrences in this country were once in Hampshire, once in Kent, and twice in Sussex.—Pall Mall Gazette.

him off.

The supposed well-to-do young lady went to the address she had given, and spent her evening in a small fourth-story back room in a Bloomsbury lodging-house. Up to midnight she sat by a dim candle darning a pair of rather discouraging stockings. The room was modeled on the pattern of the usual cheap, upper story lodging-house chamber, and the candle only half disclosed the shabbiness of the rickety furniture. As the daming needle moved back and forth a sort of grim, defiant smile gathered on the girl's face.

"Well," she mused, "this is an instance of one-half the world not knowing how the other balf lives. The man was doubtless She Was Cautions. "One sweet kiss before I go," said young

AN UNREDEEMED PLEDGE.

BY E. L. BANK.

"Stop thief! Stop thief!" The cry rang ut on Oxford street, near Tottenham Court road. It came from a pretty girl, stylishly dressed, who, a moment before, might have been observed looking into one of the shop windows. "Won't anybody stop him? He has my purse!" she called out again, point-ing down the street, where a man's figure

could be seen making rapid headway. The assembled crowd gazed after him, but not one attempted to make chase, so the girl herself started in pursuit, while the passers were ediffied by the sight of an ex-cited looking young woman running along Oxford street, with her brown sailor hat knocked sideways and her hair tumbling down Suddenly the hour turnel in the sailor has down. Suddenly the man turned right-about face, and ran back again to ward Tottenhan

Court road, straight into the outstretched arms of a policeman.

When the girl arrived on the spot she was pale and almost breathless, but she managed to say, "Hetook my purse," when theofficer asked the cause of the disturbance.

The thief—a medium sized, cadaverous looking man—glanced first at the policeman, then at the girl, with wild eyes, and, to the astohishment of everyone, blurted out: "Yes,I'vegotit! Hereitis." Hetookfrom his pocket a large alligator purse, cubel-lished with curiously wrought silver initials, and handed it to the officer with a dogged air of brayado.

"Is this yours, lady?" asked the officer,

turning to the accuser.

"Yes; please give it to me and let the
man off. I don't think he'll steal again,"
she answered, holding out her hand to "I couldn't do that, miss You'll have to go to the station and identify it," was the

reply.

The girl's face turned paler still as she begged to be given back her property, but finding her pleading of no avail, she folowed to the police station. The official in charge handed her a book and directed her to write her name, address

and occupation; so, with trembling fingers, she wrote: "Alice Moreton, blank number, giank street, Bloomsbury; stenographer and

The accused also gave a name and address, nd, turning to the young lady, stammered

"I shouldn't have done it, lady, but I was hungry, and hadn't had anything for two

"The same old story. That's the way with

"The same oid story. That's the way with all of you," answered the policeman, gruffly. The girl was about to say something to the prisoner, when, glancing at the officer, who had the stolen property, she noticed that he was looking over the contents of the purse.

"How dare you?" she demanded, starting forward, as if to snatch it from him.

"It is my duty to examine it, madam," he replied. Then he laid upon the table three sixpences, eight pennes, a bit of foreign paper money, several cards, a latchkey, and a yellow pawn ticket. "I

must return to the purse the things that are of value," said he, as he put back into one of the compartments the money and the ticket. "Come to the police court to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock."

That night the man who had snatched Alice Moreton's purse ate supper at the police station, and slept more comfortably than he had for months. He was not what would be called a "professional thief." He belonged to the "out-o-works," who rather every Surfay to Hyde Park and

gather every Sunday in Hyde Park and listen to the gospel of socialism. He had never before attempted stealing purses, but the affair did not trouble him. The young lady, judging by her clothes, and the purse, must be tolerably well-to-do, and, and the purse ladies were seth heavist a she

as all young ladies were soft-hearted, she would doubtless ask the magistrate to let

typewriter.

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The Problem is this:- These three snakes, all of

ADS"

-With apologies to the New York World.

box without putting in the usual feminine plea for leniency to the offender.

"Why didn't you ask the magistrate not to be hard on him?" asked one of the women she passed, as she left the room. "Because he deserves all ne gets," she replied with a touch of sympathy in her

"Four months!" thundered his Worship

rour months: Inundered his worship three minutes latet, after the prisoner had attempted to give a garbled account of how he came to take the purse. Not one person in the court room but thought the sentence rather severe for so small a crune, but it is

more than probable that when his Worship pronounced it the thought of the pawn ticket that the purse contained rankled in his mind, and made him wish that he might send the culprit up for years instead of months. And Alice Moreton, remembering

that she went supperless to bed while the thief was well fed and cared for, thought the sentence all too just.

It was something over a year ago that the court room scene was enacted. The man did his four months in prison, and returned to his onto the court of the

to his out-o'-work comrades. Alice More

ton is stenographer and typewriter still, and a boarder at one of the Homes for Working Girls. The purse, with its silver initials, langs in a pawnshop window, an unredeemed pledge—a reminder of one of life's mockeries.

Financial Reasons.
Whyte—What made you change doctors?
I thought Dr. Pellett was your family physician.

Browne-So he was, but I never like to

we any one doctor more than \$100.-somerville Journal.

Why Bells for Christmas Ring.

Why do bells for Christmas ring? Why do little children sing?

Once a lovely shining star Seen by shepherds from afar Gently moved until its light Made a manger's cradle bright.

There a darling baby lay Pillowed soft upon the hay. And its mother sang and smiled "This is Christ, the holy child."

hungry, as be said, and observing that I was well dressed and carried a valuable looking purse, he had no reason to suspect that I needed it as much as he did.

"Why didn't you ask the magistrate not to

equal size, begin swallowing each other and keep on

swallowing, all at an equal rate of speed. What will be

WANT

furnish a puzzle to the people of Washington even

greater than the above snake conundrum. Results re-

HAVE YOU TRIED THEM?

How was he to know that my dress and hat were bought on the Installment plan and not paid for; that the beautiful purse contained just two shillings and two pence in money and a pawn ticket for my mother's wedding ring? And then, how should he know that just as he snatched the purse from me I was thinking that it also must follow the ring, and that I must then carry my change in my pocket? Well, I suppose it would not be so very heavily laden!"

When the candle had burned out Alice.

When the candle had burned out Alice

Moreton, stenographer and typewriter, went to bed, tired and hungry. The money left at the police station had made it impos-sible for her to procure her usual supper of bread and tea. In the morning she ate the breakfast supplied by the landlady, at the price of 8 percent and 1 10 octoor.

the price of 8 pence, and at 10 o'clock she appeared at the police court. The place was a revelation to her, and she strank from the filth and misery by which she was surrounded. In the waiting room,

where she stopped till her case was called, the miserably clad women who also waited started at her in wonder. "What's the likes of her doin' here?"

in' some poor servant girl to jail, I'll be

In the course of time, long after the hour appointed, she was called to the court room. The policeman told of the thief's capture, and when he related that the valuables of

the purse consisted of three aixpences, eight coppers and a pawn ticket for £1. Alice Moreton's face went crimion, and then a strangely bard and determined look came over it.

strangely hard and determined look came over it.

As she stepped into me witness box ahe asked the officer in a whisper if the prisoner had had any supper the ment before.

"Oh, yes, lady; they're a sways fed," was the answer.

At that her face hardened still more, and it was with a peculiarli set expression that she told the story of the their. Once the prisoner interrupted her with:

"I was hungry, lady, and I thought you had plenty. As soon as I stole it I was sorry, and when I turned around to go toward you I meant to give it back to you."

But the lines of her mouth relaxed not a bit. She finished answering the questions

rhispered one woman to another.

How was he to know that my dress and

AND THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

the final condition of things?

ceived are frequently marvelous.

PERSONAL.

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M. PARKER.

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Baffalo, and Singara Falis cally, except saturday, with Steeping Car Washington to Suspension Bridge, via Buffalo P. M. for Erie, Canandaigus, Rochester, Buffalo, and Niagara Palis daily, skeeping Car Washington to Except Steeping Car Washington to Except Steeping Car Washington to Example Steeping Car From Hallimore. Regular at 7.05 (Dining Car from Baltimore. Regular at 7.05 (Dining Car, and 11.00 (Dining Car, mon Willimg Car), and 11.00 (Dining Car, and 11.00 (Dining Car, and 11.00 (Dining Car, and 11.00 (Dining Car, and 11.35 p. m. on Sunday, 7.05 (Dining Car, and 11.35 p. m. on Sunday, 7.05 (Dining Car, and 11.35 p. m. on Sunday, 7.05 (Dining Car, and 11.35 p. m. on Sunday, 7.06 (Dining Car, and 11.35 p. m. daily, For Boston without change. Express, 12.15 week-days. 2.01 and 5.40 p. m. daily, For Boston without change. 50.4 m. week-days. 2.01 and 5.40 p. m. daily, For Boston without change. 6.25, 7.05, 7.20, 7.50, 9.00, 12.00, 10.30, 11.00, and 11.50 a. m., 12.15, 12.45, 2.01, 3.15, 3.40 (4.00 Limited), 4.20, 4.30, 6.40, 6.05, 6.40, 7.10, 10.00, 10.40, 21.15, and 11.35 p. m. On Sunday, 7.08, 7.20, 9.00, 9.05, 10.35, 10.30, 11.00 a. m., 12.15, 1.15, 2.01, 3.15, 3.40 (4.00 Limited), 4.20, 4.30, 6.405, 6.40, 7.10, 10.00, 10.40-21.15, and 11.35 p. m. Por Pope's Creek Line, 7.20 a. m. and 4.36 p. m. daily, except Sunday, Sunday, 9.00 a. m. and 4.20 p. m. daily, except Sunday, Sunday, 9.00 a. m. and 4.20 p. m. daily, except Sunday, Sunday, 9.00 a. m. and 4.20 p. m. daily, except Sunday, 8.00 a. m., 3.46 p. m. daily, Richmond and Atlanta, 8.40 p. m. daily, 8.00 p. 10, 10.15, 10.28 m. daily, and 4.20 p. m. daily, 8.00 p. 10, 10.15, 10.28 m. daily, and 4.20 p. m. daily, 8.00 p. 10,

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10.40 P. M. PACIFIC EXPRESS—Pullman Sleeping Car to Pittaburg.

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10.30 A. M. for Elmira and Renova, daily, except Sunday. For Williamsport daily, 3.40 p. m.

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